

MICHIGAN SUPREME COURT



Office of Public Information

contact: Marcia McBrien | (313) 972-3219 or (517) 373-0129

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PUBLIC INPUT SOUGHT ON MICHIGAN CHILD SUPPORT GUIDELINES; SUPREME COURT TO HOLD PUBLIC HEARING ON JUNE 19

LANSING, MI, April 23, 2003 – The State Court Administrative Office (SCAO) is seeking public comment on proposed changes to Michigan's child support guidelines.

SCAO is the administrative agency of the Michigan Supreme Court. It is responsible for creating and updating child support guidelines.

The Michigan Supreme Court will consider the proposed changes at a public hearing scheduled for June 19. Schedules, agendas, and instructions for reserving time to speak at public hearings are posted on the Court's website at <http://www.courts.michigan.gov/supremecourt>.

Some of the most significant proposals include changing how parenting time affects support payments, how courts must determine which parent should provide health insurance, and how payments for uninsured medical expenses will be made.

According to the notice announcing the request for public comment, "interested persons [will have] the opportunity to comment on the form or the merits of the proposal, or to suggest alternatives."

The request is not the first time SCAO has called for public comment on the proposed guidelines. During the two years that the guidelines were under review, SCAO sought public input and conducted a web-based survey in April 2002 to obtain additional comments.

The proposed changes and instructions on filing comments may be viewed at <http://www.courts.michigan.gov/scao/services/focb/mcsf.htm>. All comments are due by July 1, 2003.

After the Court considers all of the public comments, final changes will be incorporated into the 2004 Michigan Child Support Formula Manual, due to be published in December 2003.

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